

SYN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGN. NO. 97

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

May 29, 2007

Last year the Board adopted an interim ordinance to temporarily regulate oil well drilling in the Baldwin Hills in response to concerns related to noise, odor and vibration by residents in the surrounding area, including Ladera Heights, View Park and Culver City. The interim ordinance, which will expire next month if not extended, placed restrictions on drilling activities to reduce the amount of drilling and associated air quality, odor, vibration, noise, and visual impacts until permanent regulations could be established. Despite these interim regulations, community residents have voiced their complaints to the County that noise, odor and vibration associated with oil drilling activities continue to occur. These concerns raise serious public health, safety and welfare issues that must be addressed with more stringent controls.

County staff is working diligently with a consultant team to prepare an environment impact report to assess the effect of existing and future oil production activities on the surrounding communities. A community standards district is being

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drafted to establish permanent land use regulations, procedures and development standards to assure that future oil field operations are compatible with the health and safety of surrounding residential neighborhoods. These environmental studies and regulations will be prepared with extensive community involvement so that all the concerns of residents are addressed. This process, which also includes formal public hearings by the Regional Planning Commission and the Board, will be completed next year.

In order to provide the greatest protection to the public health, safety and welfare of the Baldwin Hills community, no additional oil well drilling should occur in the next 12 months except for wells that have received all of their County and California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources approvals, and where well drilling has commenced prior to June 26, 2007. This will give the County staff and the environmental consultant adequate time to prepare the studies and regulations that will provide the basis of a program to allow oil production in a manner that does not jeopardize the public health, safety and welfare of the community. This program will be extensively reviewed by community members to allow the broadest input from all members.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board close the public hearing and adopt the attached extension of Interim Ordinance no. 2006-0050, temporarily prohibiting oil well drilling on A-2 and M-1 ½ zoned property in the Baldwin Hills Zoned District to be effective on June 26, 2007 and expiring on June 26, 2008.

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